

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An industrial automation system computer display comprising:

a primary display region including a window area for displaying information for an industrial automation system;

a peripheral display region;

a message indicator superimposed over a portion of the peripheral region; and

a user-activated icon for causing retrieval and display of an industrial automation system message, wherein the industrial automation system message is displayed in a pop-up window and wherein the pop-up window is placed within the window area of the primary display region in such a way that it does not obstruct the information displayed in the ~~primary display region~~ window area.

2. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral region comprises a top edge, a bottom edge and lateral edges circumscribing an icon for invoking tools for running and debugging application programs.

3. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 1, wherein the message indicator is located in a status bar.

4. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 1, wherein the message indicator is displayed superimposed over the peripheral display region when triggered by an automation system message.

5. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 1, wherein the user-activated icon is displayed approximately in the center of the peripheral region.

6. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 1, wherein the user-activated icon is located adjacent the bottom edge of the peripheral region.

7. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 1, wherein the user-activated icon, when selected for a first period of time, invokes retrieval of a single message, and, when selected for a second period of time, invokes retrieval of a plurality of messages.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 7, wherein the first period of time is less than the second period of time.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 7, wherein the messages in the pop-up window are associated with respective time tags and in an order based on the time tags.

12. (Original) The industrial automation system computer display according to claim 1, wherein the message indicator is accompanied by an audio-visual warning comprising an audible sound and a blinking display comprising a color contrasting with the visual characteristics of the surrounding peripheral region.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for use with an industrial automation display having a peripheral display region and a primary display region including a window area for displaying information for an industrial automation system, the method for displaying messages relating to industrial automation applications and providing user-activated inquiry into the messages, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying information for the industrial automation system in the window area;

(ba) providing a message indicator, in the peripheral region only, indicating the presence of a message;

(cb) receiving a signal from the user via the user's activation of the message indicator; and

(de) in response to receiving the signal from the user, retrieving the contents of a message associated with the message indicator and displaying the retrieved message contents in a pop-up window, wherein the pop-up window is placed within the window area of the primary display region in such a way that it does not obstruct the information displayed in the ~~primary display region~~window area.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein a single message is retrieved if the user's activation comprises a selection lasting a first period of time, and a plurality of messages is retrieved if the user's activation comprises a second period of time.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the first period of time is less than the second period of time.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the messages relate to a fault-causing event.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for permitting a user to interact with an industrial automation display, the display comprising a primary display region including a window area for displaying information for an industrial automation system and a peripheral display region, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying information for the industrial automation system in the window area;

(a) receiving an industrial automation display comprising a message indicator superimposed on the peripheral display region;

(b) activating retrieval of message contents by selecting the message indicator; and

(c) receiving the retrieved message contents;

(d) displaying the message in a pop-up window and wherein the pop-up window is placed within the window area of the primary display region in such a way that it does not obstruct the information displayed in the ~~primary display region~~window area.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the message indicator is accompanied by an acoustic signal.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the message relates to a fault-causing event.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the user responding to the signal comprises viewing and assessing the nature of the fault-causing message.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of activating retrieval of the message comprises clicking on the message indicator.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the pop-up window shows a list of messages related to the fault-causing event presented in the order of their occurrence.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of entering a response to a message in the ~~pop-up window~~area.